

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A telescoping steering column assembly comprising:
 - a lower mounting mechanism for connecting to a body,
 - a lower jacket having inner and outer surfaces connected to said lower mounting mechanism;
 - an upper jacket having inner and outer surfaces and disposed in telescoping relationship with said lower jacket,
 - an upper mounting mechanism for connecting to the body for slidably supporting said upper jacket for telescoping movement relative to said lower jacket between various positions,
 - a linear bushing having leading and trailing ends and side wall disposed between said inner surface of said upper jacket and said outer surface of said lower jacket, and
 - said linear bushing including a plurality of convolutions disposed axially in side-by-side relationship as viewed in cross-section and extending between said ends of said bushing to provide outer load bearing surfaces to engage said inner surface of said upper jacket and to provide inner load bearing surfaces to engage said outer surface of said lower jacket and to provide radial walls for flexing to maintain said bearing surfaces in engagement with said jackets to allow said bushing to radially expand and contract.
2. A telescoping steering column assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said radial walls converge toward one another from said inner and outer load bearing surfaces to define an opening opposite each load bearing surface as viewed in cross-section.
3. A telescoping steering column assembly as set forth in claim 2 including arcuate corners interconnecting said radial walls and said load bearing surfaces as viewed in cross-section.

4. A telescoping steering column assembly as set forth in claim 3 wherein each of said inner load bearing surfaces extends circumferentially a shorter distance than each of said outer load bearing surfaces extending circumferentially.

5. A telescoping steering column assembly as set forth in claim 3 wherein each of said inner load bearing surfaces extends circumferentially a longer distance than each of said outer load bearing surfaces extending circumferentially.

6. A telescoping steering column assembly as set forth in claim 1 including a lubricant in said plurality of convolutions to dispose the lubricant over said inner surface of said upper jacket and said outer surface of said lower jacket.

7. A telescoping steering column assembly as set forth in claim 3 wherein said lower mounting mechanism includes a lower bracket of a generally rectangular configuration having an aperture defined therewithin and a plurality of teeth integral with and extending radially and outwardly from said lower mounting bracket to said aperture.

8. A telescoping steering column assembly as set forth in claim 7 wherein said upper mounting mechanism includes an upper bracket having first and second ends and a bottom and sides extending upwardly from said bottom to define a gap therebetween.

9. A telescoping steering column assembly as set forth in claim 8 wherein said upper bracket includes a slot defined within each of said sides at said first end.

10. A telescoping steering column assembly as set forth in claim 9 including a compression bracket having a bottom and side walls and first and second ends and an inlet defined within said side walls and extending between said first and second ends of said compression bracket perpendicularly to said slots of said upper mounting bracket.

11. A telescoping steering column assembly as set forth in claim 10 wherein said compression bracket being slidably disposed within said upper mounting bracket.

12. A telescoping steering column assembly as set forth in claim 11 wherein said lower jacket includes a generally tubular configuration having leading and trailing ends and having a pair of waste portions defined at said trailing end to engage mechanically within said teeth of said lower mounting bracket.

13. A telescoping steering column assembly as set forth in claim 12 wherein said upper jacket includes a generally tubular configuration having leading and trailing ends and being disposed within said compression bracket.

14. A telescoping steering column assembly comprising:

- a lower mounting mechanism for connecting to a body having a lower bracket of a generally rectangular configuration including an aperture defined therewithin and a plurality of teeth integral with and extending radially and outwardly from said lower bracket to said aperture;
- a lower jacket of a generally tubular configuration having leading and trailing ends having inner and outer surfaces and having a pair of waste portions defined at said trailing end to engage mechanically within said teeth of said lower bracket;
- an upper jacket of a generally tubular configuration having leading and trailing ends and having inner and outer surfaces and disposed in telescoping relationship with said lower jacket;
- an upper mounting mechanism for connecting to the body for slidably supporting said upper jacket for telescoping movement relative to said lower jacket between various positions wherein said upper mounting mechanism includes an upper bracket having first and second ends and a bottom and sides extending upwardly from said bottom to define a gap therebetween;
- said upper bracket including a slot defined within each of said sides at said first end;
- a linear bushing having leading and trailing ends and side wall disposed between said inner surface of said upper jacket and said outer surface of said lower jacket;
- said linear bushing including a plurality of convolutions disposed axially in side-by-side relationship as viewed in cross-section and extending between said ends of said bushing to provide outer load bearing surfaces to engage said inner surface of said upper jacket and to provide inner load bearing surfaces to engage said outer surface

of said lower jacket and to provide radial walls for flexing to maintain said bearing surfaces in engagement with said jackets to allow said bushing to radially expand and contract;

said radial walls converge toward one another from said inner and outer load bearing surfaces to define an opening opposite each load bearing surface as viewed in cross-section;

a plurality of arcuate corners interconnecting said radial walls and said inner and outer load bearing surfaces as viewed in cross-section wherein each of said inner load bearing surfaces extends circumferentially a shorter distance than each of said outer load bearing surfaces extends circumferentially and each of said inner load bearing surfaces extends circumferentially a longer distance than each of said outer load bearing surfaces extends circumferentially;

a lubricant stored in said plurality of convolutions to dispose the lubricant over said inner surface of said upper jacket and said outer surface of said lower jacket;

a compression bracket having a bottom and side walls and first and second ends and an inlet defined within said side walls and extending between said first and second ends of said compression bracket perpendicularly to said slots of said upper mounting bracket; and

said compression bracket being slidably disposed within said upper mounting bracket.